

## **RESOLUTION NO. 13-920**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council and the Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, are apprised Mother Willie Mae Draper will celebrate her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday on November 23, 2013 at the Dr. Terrell Harris, Jr. Family Life Center, 4:00 p.m.; and,

**WHEREAS**, Willie Mae Draper was born on November 25, 1923, in Madison County, to the late Mr. Henry Lee Miller and Pearline Binford. During her early childhood, she contracted the "fatal" disease diphtheria, but through the faith and continuous prayers of her mother, God miraculously healed her. This was the foundation upon which Mother Draper's life was built. She always knew "there was more to life" than the segregated south presented during her youth; and,

**WHEREAS**, the two most pivotal moments in Mother Draper's life was her marriage to Dave Draper, Sr., on September 24, 1946, a hardworking, family oriented man. And August 5, 1950, when she accepted Christ as her Lord and Savior under the discipleship of the late Elder S.H. Netters, pastor of the Gardner Street Church of God in Christ (COGIC); and,

**WHEREAS**, in 1963, Elder Dave Draper, Sr., became pastor of a small dual congregation, The New Market COGIC. In continuous prayer and consecration as First Lady, Mother Draper committed herself unselfishly to the ministry working as a Bible Band Teacher and advisor of the Young Women's Christian Council to being a vocalist in the Adult Choir/Couples Ministry's advisor; and,

**WHEREAS**, Mother Draper's most noted dates, appointments, and honors are: 1985-present, President State Hospitality Department, 1990 International Missionary work in Schweinfurt, Germany and across northern Germany on a 21 day sojourn filled with teaching and evangelizing. She served as an Alabama delegate to the National Women's Convention for over 35 years. In 2002, she traveled to Oahu, Hawaii where The Lord used her to witness to many souls; and,

**WHEREAS**, in April 1998, after 51 years of marriage, the Lord called from labor to reward her husband Elder Dave Draper, Sr. God blessed them with three beautiful children: Betty, Dave, Jr., and Jesse; and a host of grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and,

**WHEREAS**, although now widowed, she continues to labor for God in much the same capacity as she has always served. Civically, she serves as an Executive Advisory Board Member for the Alabama Cooperative Extension System's Successful Aging Initiative at Alabama A&M University. Her most recent honor is the covenant NAACP k2008 Rosa Parks Women of Courage Award. She is currently a spiritual advisor and counselor to the Huntsville District Women's Department; and,

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**WHEREAS**, Mother Draper's most notable quotes are: "Only the strong will survive!" "God is real! and "All is well!"

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, that this governing body does hereby officially express their congratulations to Mother Willie Mae Draper on the occasion of her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration, and extend best wishes for many more birthdays and good health.

**ADOPTED** this the 21st day of November, 2013.

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President of the City Council  
of the City of Huntsville, Alabama

**APPROVED** this the 21st day of November, 2013.

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Mayor of the City of Huntsville,  
Alabama